

Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program

What is the Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program?

The Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program (GMS CPP) provides academic enrichment activities for minority middle and junior high school students; encourages these students to stay in school and enter college; makes young African American students aware of the benefits and value of college; and prepares these students to be successful in college-level work. The program places emphasis on early intervention to expand the number of minorities who are prepared for and interested in attending postsecondary education. The program is now in its 17th year of operation.

How many Kentucky students are served by the program?

A total of 1,079 students participated in the programs at Kentucky's public universities and community and technical colleges in FY 2004-05, an increase of 85 students from the previous year. Students from 143 middle and junior high schools from across the Commonwealth participated in the statewide program.

How does the program work?

The programs currently are located on 18 university and community and technical college campuses across the Commonwealth. The Council and each of the participating institutions jointly implement the program. The program offers academic enrichment activities to prepare students for rigorous courses in middle and high school and for college-level coursework. African American students interested in postsecondary education are eligible to apply. Specific areas of concentration include computer technology, communication and listening, math, science, reading, research, leadership, history, and culture. Participants also are introduced to collegiate life by attending an annual statewide conference. Seven institutions offer programs year round, and five programs offer participants a residential experience during the summer. The remaining institutions provide academic support services over a one- to three-week period each summer.

Why is a program like this needed?

The Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky's public institutions collaborated to create and finance the intervention programs for the sole purpose of addressing the higher education desegregation commitment. The program is needed to build a pipeline of academically prepared minority students to successfully enroll in and graduate from Kentucky's postsecondary institutions. The GMS CPP also supports the Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, as well as the Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities.

What is the Council's request?

The Council seeks an additional \$240,500 in FY 2006-07 to bring total recurring General Fund support for the program to \$465,200 for each year of the biennium.

Why is the funding needed?

If funding for this program is limited to the current General Fund support of \$224,700 in each year of the next biennium, the Council estimates that eight of the 18 programs will either be dismantled or funded only by the institutions. Additionally, the remaining 10 programs would be cut, and over 200 students and 44 schools would cease to be served.



Photo source: WKU

One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People